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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 730113



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending January 13, 1973

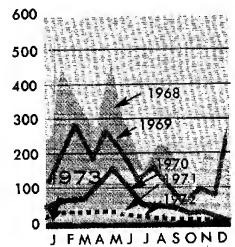
NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

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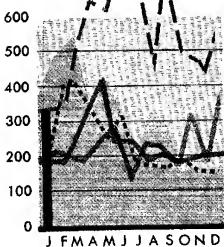
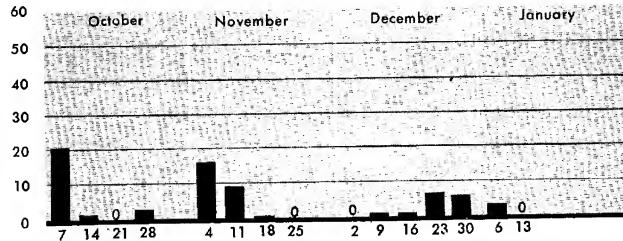
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1973
Weekly average for each month

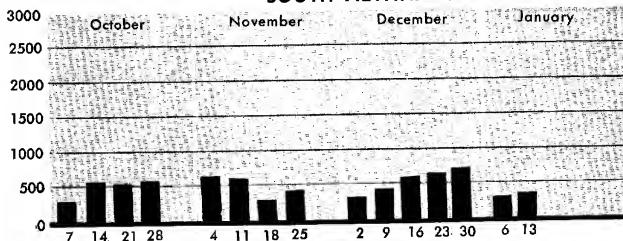


OCTOBER 1972 — JANUARY 1973
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS dropped to zero from the three of last week.

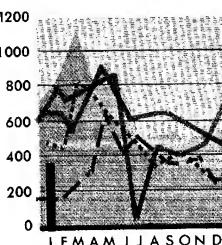
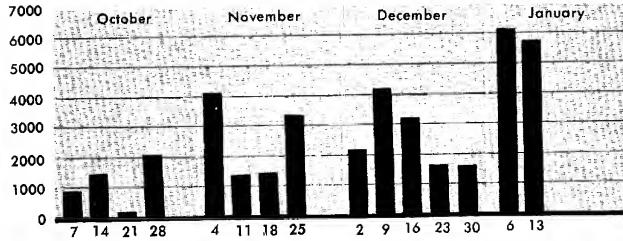
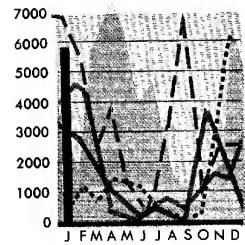


SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 347 for the week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.

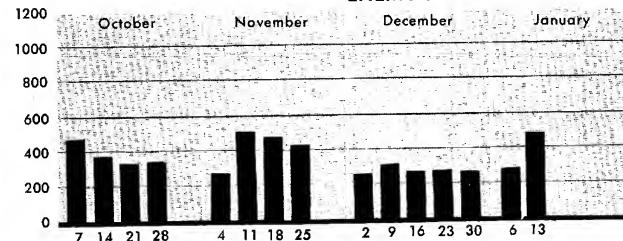


INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

include three regular, eight "gap fill," and three special purpose groups totaling 5,663 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 now stands at some 38,700 - 40,700.

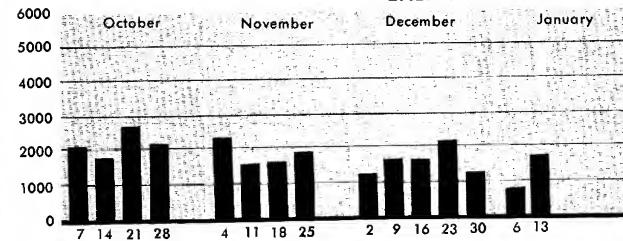
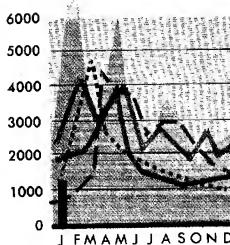


ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS jumped to 489 from the 281 of the previous week.



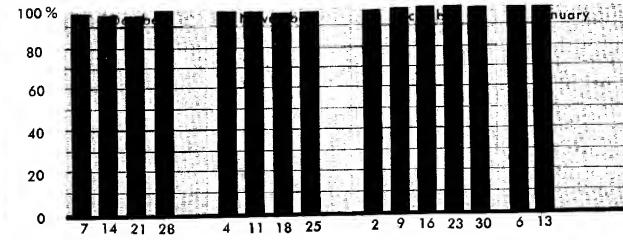
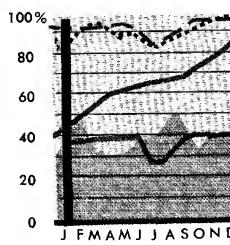
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

climbed to 1,757 from last week's 923.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy killed in ground combat by GVN forces remained at 100%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

25X1C

Enemy-initiated activity remained at a low level throughout South Vietnam during the past week. Except for small-scale attacks by fire, the majority of which occurred in Military Region 4, most of the fighting was in reaction to operations initiated by government forces. There have been [redacted] reports, however, that the Communists would launch another high point prior to a cease-fire. The enemy's current strength and disposition of forces probably preclude a major upsurge of activity, although another round of attacks similar to the Communists' abortive highpoint at the end of October could occur.

Meeting only token resistance, Communist forces in Cambodia late last week swiftly occupied at least 16 Cambodian positions scattered on both banks of the lower Mekong River, south of the vital ferry point of Neak Luong. In addition to threatening that town, the enemy has successfully interdicted the Mekong River as a line of communication to Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Army (FANK) has kicked off an expedition to regain the lost positions and has achieved some initial success, although a number of the positions are still in enemy hands. East of Neak Luong, government forces are attempting to contain further enemy encroachments along Route 1. In these actions south and east of Neak Luong, the Communists capitalized heavily on the ineptitude of the local FANK commanders. Elsewhere in the country, the FANK is pressing, with limited success, to relieve pressure on besieged garrisons along Routes 2 and 3 south and southwest of Phnom Penh.

At week's end, military activity was light throughout Laos. Earlier in the week, Communist forces in a major assault drove friendly units out of Saravane in south Laos, and the friendly forces are now regrouping west of the town. In the north, the limited enemy activity which occurred during the week centered around the friendly base of Bouam Long, north of the Plaine des Jarres, where a second and more extensive NVA attack is expected. Enemy mortaring of government irregular positions north and east of Long Tieng has become a daily routine, and sporadic shelling of Long Tieng itself by NVA 130mm field guns continues. To the west, along the main route (No. 13) between Luang Prabang and Vientiane, two enemy tanks moving south reached Muong Kassy before they were dispersed and destroyed by friendly ground forces.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the week, 1,663 NVA personnel were detected in the infiltration pipeline. An additional 4,000 troops, who had begun their movement earlier undetected, were accepted as "gap-fills," raising our estimated number of infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1972 to some 38,700 - 40,700.

In logistical activities, recent intercepts have reflected difficulties with rail transportation within China which have delayed the scheduled delivery during January of some 68,000 tons of food-stuffs. Shipments of trucks from China have, however, recently increased sharply. Between 29 December and 9 January, 910 vehicles were dispatched to North Vietnam -- the largest number of known Chinese deliveries for such a short period. Within North Vietnam, the Communists have apparently shaken off some of the effects of the intensive bombing attacks on the lines of communication out of the main transportation network in the Hanoi-Haiphong area. Vehicle movements southward through the Panhandle have increased from the low of less than 100 per day, noted during the latter part of December, to about 400 per day since 7 January. NVA armored units are also continuing to move southward, and recently intercepted messages indicate that a new group of 80 to 100 tanks and armored personnel carriers had already reached the Tchepone area of south Laos. The estimated number of armored vehicles which have deployed southward from North Vietnam during the past three months now stands at 200 to 240.

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